

Emergency Food Relief



Sacks of rice in our office ready for distribution

Because of the hard COVID lockdown, the children’s families are having difficulty obtaining food. Jobs have been lost, or are on hold, unpaid; and with markets largely shut, many people who previously earned a living by selling there, now cannot.

Bean crops in the district were recently harvested, so those with a crop had that to eat. Some parents without land and crops offered their labour, helping with the harvesting in exchange for beans.

To supplement bean stew, we have been able to supply staples – rice, maize flour to make posho (like polenta) and peanuts for a tasty, popular and very nutritious sauce to go with it.



Some of the parents and older teens helped to divide the bulk food into family-sized packs.



Soap was also provided to help with infection control.



*One mother said:
“I don't know how to describe this tremendous support. We are very happy!”*

*Another parent commented:
“ We feel loved now. In our sight it (the food) is much support.”*

Over several days, the families sent representatives to collect their supplies on motor bikes or bicycles, all arriving in carefully spaced timeslots to maintain safety under COVID protocols. They’re so grateful to all the sponsors and donors, whose contributions have made this possible.



Precious Cargo: food and water carried home.

COVID in Kisoro

COVID 19 cases have been surging throughout Uganda. It’s rampant in the capital, Kampala, and during May-June, cases were also rising in Kisoro district.

In Kisoro during the past 7 weeks, there have been:

- 1,658 tests carried out
- 609 new positive cases
- 18 deaths
- 31 people hospitalised
- 129 recoveries

The limited hospital care available has been overwhelmed by too many cases and the bulk of the positive cases are sent home to recuperate. Oxygen to fill tanks is in very short supply, isolation wards are full and there are no more testing kits.



Medical ward in Kisoro District Hospital

In response, a national lockdown was called from 16th June until the end of July. This lockdown has been tough, closing markets, shops, schools again and not allowing any private or commercial passenger vehicle use.

SCHOOL NEWS:

Schools have been closed again as the national lockdown has been tightened to minimise the new COVID 19 wave. Despite all this, at Rwaramba Primary School, where 23 of our primary children study, the P7 students are gaining **exceptional exam results!** As a testament to the excellent leadership at this school, the P7 students received the following grades:

Div 112

Div 226

Div 315

Congratulations on being the best performing Government Primary School in Kisoro District. We are so proud of the children, and also congratulate the school's dedicated Head Teacher, Mr Fred Kageyo, staff and School Board for their tireless commitment to this school community during these very difficult circumstances.

Rwaramba District Primary School



Mrs Idah Mugenga (former HOVC Board member) giving tips to P7 students before their PLE exams. In the background is one of the HOVC renovated classroom blocks.

Individual exam results for our children are expected to come in shortly, so sponsors will likely be receiving more news of their children's progress at school over the next month.

The computer short course

is now halfway through, and results are good for the 14 senior students learning introductory Microsoft Office skills in the break between blocks in their usual school classroom.

This knowledge will be invaluable in their future school studies and later employment.



Completed courses:

Congratulations are also due to the 5 students who have just finished vocational training, now ready to seek employment in carpentry, bricklaying and tailoring/commercial knitting.



Welfare assessment:

With mask and hand sanitiser in place, Bernard has begun a program of visiting the home of each sponsored child to assess the family's current living situation, strengths and needs at this point, so EDGE Uganda will be better informed to help them as we are able.

It's a laborious task to visit all the villages, often along rough, very steep tracks, so it will take a while to complete. The effort it takes also shows the families that they are valued and that we are listening to them. It contributes to building good communication and good relationships.

This will also allow us to update our records. As we do so, Marion will be sending sponsors the latest info on their child as it comes to hand over the next while, along with new photos.



Legal Action

With the current Ugandan nationwide lockdown, courts and offices are also closed, so action on the case is temporarily on hold. Nevertheless while we are waiting for the courts to open, our lawyer is assisting us with the application process for registration to operate as an International Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Uganda. This would give us the necessary legal status in Uganda to own property directly, as we manage the organization into the future.

Prayer Focus

Please join us in praying for the children and their families in the disruptions and privations of the current COVID epidemic, and for Bernard, as he seeks to support and encourage them.

And meanwhile, **celebrate and thank God** for all that has been accomplished in the community even in the middle of all that -

- ◆ for food relief going out, and surprisingly good school grades coming in;
- ◆ for training completed and more continuing;
- ◆ for hope growing for the future of these children and their families;
- ◆ and for faith and courage that holds firm, as displayed in this inspiring message on a Kisoro house wall:



WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT EDGE Uganda:

- **Pray:** about what you've read in this newsletter; and to join our email prayer group. email your details to: elizabeth.gay@hovc.org.au
- **Become an EDGE Volunteer!** Ask Marion or Lisa about how you can get involved. Email us at: info@hovc.org.au
- **Give:** You can make a donation to EDGE using the banking details below:
 Account Name: EDGE Uganda. Inc. BSB: 112-879 Account #: 438 129 386
 Reference: Please use your Supporter ID #